

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PM-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3207

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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SECDEF FOR ASD/PA - LAITIN AND OSD/ISA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER, JAMES) PFOR/FR

SUBJECT/ SECDEF VISIT TO PARIS -- INVITATION TO PRESS

LUNCHEON.

1. ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION OF PARIS HAS CALLED EMBASSY TO REQUEST THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER BE GUEST SPEAKER AT PRESS LUNCHEON WHEN HE COMES TO PARIS. IN MAKING REQUEST, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT MILT FREUDENHEIM (CHICAGO DAILY NEW' CORRESPONDENT) CITED UNATTRIBUTED AFP STORY SAYING SECRETARY WOULD BE HERE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER AT INVITATION OF FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD CHECK ON AFP STORY AND PHONE BACK ABOUT REQUEST.

2. FYI, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AFP STORY DATED WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 12: "MR. JAMES SCHLESINGER, AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, PLANS TO VISIT FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER OF BEGINNING OF OCTOBER, PENTAGON SOURCES SAID FRIDAY. THIS VISIT WILL BE IN RESPONSE TO THOSE THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES MADE RECENTLY TO THE

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UNITED STATES. IT WILL PERMIT MR. SCHLESINGER TO CONFER

ON NATO PROBLEMS WITH RESPONSIBLE FRENCH, GERMAN AND BRITISH MILITARY MEN, PENTAGON SOURCES SAID. LAST MAY, MR. SCHLESINGER ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE NATO PLANNING COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS".

3. FYI, ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION IN PARIS IS RESPECTED FORUM. RECENT GUESTS HAVE INCLUDED AMBASSADOR KENNETH RUSH AND FRENCH PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. FORMAT USUALLY INCLUDES 5 OR 10 MINUTES OF REMARKS BY GUEST SPEAKER FOLLOWED BY QS AND AS, ALL ON THE RECORD.

3. COMMENT: "WE BELIEVE THAT YOUR VISIT TO PARIS, THE FIRST BY A U.S. SEC DEF IN SEVERAL YEARS, SHOULD GIVE PRIMARY ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WHILE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION IS A HIGHLY REPUTABLE FORUM, IT IS NOT FUNDAMENTALLY A FRENCH FORUM. IT APPEARS DESIRABLE TO AVOID ANY INFERENCE THAT YOUR VISIT HERE DOES NOT FOCUS ESSENTIALLY ON FRANCE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU NOT ADDRESS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION DURING THIS VISIT. THIS NEED NOT, OF COURSE, FORECLOSE YOUR MEETING WITH THE GROUP DURING A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY WHICH TIME WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH VISITS WILL HAVE BECOME "REGULAR AND NATURAL". ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HOPE YOU WILL HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF YOUR STAY IN FRANCE. THIS IS NORMAL "PUBLIC EXPOSURE" WHICH YOUR FRENCH HOSTS WOULD FIND QUITE IN KEEPING WITH THE TONE OF THE VISIT.

4. SHOULD SECRETARY DECIDE TO MEET WITH THIS GROUP, WE WOULD NEED TO LET THEM KNOW ABOUT SEVEN WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE.
RUSH

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